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FROM: Kurt Rauschenbach, Ph.D.

DATE: April 14, 2004

RE: Preliminary Amendment

CLIENT: USSN: 10/708,450 (VEX-001)

PAGES: 3 (Including this Cover Sheet)

COMMENTS.

Dear Sir,

Following this cover sheet, please find a Preliminary Amendment for the above-referenced case. Also included in this transmission is a General Transmittal Form.

Please send confirmation of receipt of this facsimile transmission by return facsimile. My fax number is 781.271.1527

Thank you,

Kurt Rauschenbach

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PTO/SB/21 (08-03)

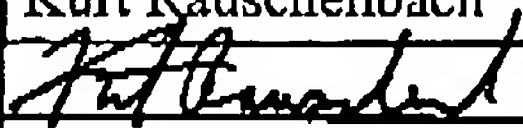
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<b>TRANSMITTAL FORM</b>  (to be used for all correspondence after initial filing)	Application Number	10/708,450
	Filing Date	3/4/2004
	First Named Inventor	DOUGHTY
	Art Unit	Not Yet Assigned
	Examiner Name	Not Yet Assigned
(Not including Cited Reference(s)) Total Number of Pages in This Submission	3	Attorney Docket Number VEX-001

ENCLOSURES (Check all that apply)		
<input type="checkbox"/> Fee Transmittal Form	<input type="checkbox"/> Drawing(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> After Allowance communication to Group
<input type="checkbox"/> Fee Attached	<input type="checkbox"/> Licensing-related Papers	<input type="checkbox"/> Appeal Communication to Board of Appeals and Interferences
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<input type="checkbox"/> Extension of Time Request	<input type="checkbox"/> Change of Correspondence Address	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other Enclosure(s) (please identify below):
<input type="checkbox"/> Express Abandonment Request	<input type="checkbox"/> Terminal Disclaimer	Preliminary Amendment (1 pg.); and
<input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement	<input type="checkbox"/> Request for Refund	Facsimile Cover Sheet (1 pg.).
<input type="checkbox"/> Certified Copy of Priority Document(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> CD. Number of CD(s) _____	
<input type="checkbox"/> Response to Missing Parts/Incomplete Application	Remarks	
<input type="checkbox"/> Response to Missing Parts under 37 CFR 1.52 or 1.53		

SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT	
Firm or Individual name	Kurt Rauschenbach
Signature	
Date	April 14, 2004

CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION/MAILING			
I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the USPTO or deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on the date shown below.			
Typed or printed name	Kurt Rauschenbach		
Signature		Date	April 14, 2004

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.5. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to 12 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

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OFFICIAL PATENT  
Attorney Docket No.: VEX-001

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANTS: DOUGHTY  
SERIAL NO.: 10/708,450 GROUP NO.: Not yet assigned.  
FILING DATE: March 4, 2004 EXAMINER: Not yet assigned.  
TITLE: Microplasma Emission Spectrometer

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Please enter the following preliminary amendment before beginning examination of the above-identified patent application.

In the Specification:

On page 1, before "Cross Reference to Related Applications" please insert

--Federal Research Statement

This Application was made, in part, with the United States Government support from NSF SBIR Phase I, under Grant Contract Number 0319494. The Government may have certain rights in the claimed invention.--

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned.

Date: April 14, 2004  
Reg. No.: 40,137

Tel. No.: (781) 271-1503  
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Respectfully submitted,



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